

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

January 4, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Porter.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, Lopez,
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Absent: Alderman O'Neil

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Maureen Molly Lee Sherman, 444 Chestnut Street, Manchester NH stated:

I want to talk about streetlights. Streetlights in the Victory Park area at night go off and on in the whole area, the parking lot and everything. When I am out walking at night they go off and there is a lot of noisy electrical activity around the corner of Elm Street and Merrimack Street near the construction site at night and I am wondering what it is and I don't hear it during the day. Thank you and have a fine day.

Hubie McDonough, Jr., 65 Holmes Drive, Manchester NH stated:

I am way premature on this but I was reading the City Hall column the other day and a paragraph caught my eye. It said the School Board will be considering future elementary school needs including the possibility of building more schools. So right away I said oh my

God if we build schools...no I didn't say that I said oh that is good. If we build more schools maybe we can phase out this junior high middle school system that we have, which is not a good system. In general I am here to tell you that we should change the system for any number of reasons. I don't have a long time to tell you but I will quote from a past Mayor who was Mayor from 1944-1962. Who was it? Josephat Benoit. He was way ahead of my time...well not way ahead but having watched the system I, myself, feel that we should go K-8 and 9-12. There are too many things going wrong in the middle here. He summarized it. Number one, it reduces the number of high school graduates. Secondly, it makes schooling more shallow than it is now by broadening its course too early for anyone but the brightest pupils. You have a student in your class for 50 minutes, bang, gone to another class. It is like high school but some of these kids are 11 and 12 years old. It is ridiculous. It invited juvenile delinquency by early contact between young and older students. That is true. I have spoken to teachers who say that kids drop out of middle school and nobody even knows they are gone. Nobody traces them. They are just gone. Fourteen years old and they are out on their own – dropouts. It shouldn't happen. Certainly in many ways it raises the cost of education. I mean the school buses that cart these people all over Manchester I am amazed every morning. If they lived closer to the schools it would be so much better and if they didn't have middle schools they would live closer to the schools. In general, I look at the system. I have been in it. My children have gone through and my grandchildren are in it now and it really lacks, what I always thought was a solid education K-8 with the same teacher all day. If you need help, they help you. This way, the kid is gone and you won't see them again and you can't get him back to help him. So many of the kids nowadays boy do they need help. There is such a wide variance in the abilities in the previous education of these students. Well you all know as well as I do. One way to help it would be to have them in grades 1-8 all day with one teacher. Thank you so much and I wish you all a good evening.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk